Sex Offender Residency Restrictions and Other Sex Offender Management Strategies: The Probation Officer Perspective in Florida A. L. Datz

Professional probation and parole practitioners have experienced a major increase in the workload associated with the supervision of sexual offenders. Public outcry and the sensationalism of media reporting result in annual legislative unfunded mandates that possibly deter from the true goal of containment, yet this group of experienced guardians are not representatively surveyed in regards to their experience and opinions regarding the efficacy of residency restrictions for sexual offenders. Input from this particular group within the literature on this subject has not been found therefore a statewide survey of Probation and Parole Officer's dedicated to the supervision of sexual offenders was conducted. Results indicate that these officers believe that these restrictions as applied in Florida, give the public a false sense of security and that other containment strategies should be explored.